

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 05825 061752 Z

70-61

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W
----- 000053

R 061210 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9775

S E C R E T SAIGON 5825

EXDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS
SUBJECT: LTG MINH OUTLINES STRATEGY TO COMBAT COMMUNIST
MILITARY PLANS IN MR III

FOL TEL SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE FROM BIEN HOA DATED APRIL 6
RPTD TO YOU FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE BIEN HOA 0058

EXDIS

1. III CORPS CG LTG NGUYEN VAN MINH CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE THIS MORNING TO CHAT ABOUT HIS PLANS TO COMBAT COMMUNIST MILITARY INTENTIONS IN MR III. HE OPENED THE DISCUSSION BY TELLING ME THAT HE IS VERY WORRIED ABOUT WHAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE IN MIND FOR PHUOC LONG PROVINCE. HE SAID THAT, BASED ON CURRENT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, HE IS NOW CONVINCED THE COMMUNISTS ARE ABOUT READY TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK ON PHUOC BINH DISTRICT IN LINE WITH THEIR PLANS TO SET UP A PRG PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN LOC NINH DISTRICT, BINH LONG PROVINCE. (LOC NINH IS ONE OF THE TWO DISTRICTS IN MR III WHICH THE COMMUNISTS OVERRAN DURING THE OFFENSIVE OF LAST APRIL. THE OTHER IS BO DUC DISTRICT IN NORTHERN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE.) MINH THEN OUTLINED WHAT HE PLANNED TO DO TO HANDLE THE PHUOC LONG THREAT. HE SAID THAT HE HAS ALREADY ALERTED THE 65 TH RANGER BATTALION TO GET READY TO LEAVE FOR PHUOC LONG AT 1200 HOURS TODAY (APRIL 6) AND BE IN PLACE READY TO BEGIN OPERATIONS EARLY TOMORROW MORNING. THE RANGERS WILL BE UNDER THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SAIGON 05825 061752 Z

OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE ARVN 5 TH DIVISION. HE WILL ALSO EMPLOY TACTICAL AIR STRIKES ON WHAT HE CALLS " REVENGE" TARGETS.

2. HE THEN RAISED WHAT HE DEFINES AS PRIORITY AREAS OF CONCERN. TON LE CHAM, HE SAID, IS NUMBER ONE PRIORITY; PHUOC LONG IS NUMBER TWO; AND TAY NINH, WHICH HE LIKENED TO PHUOC LONG, IS NUMBER THREE. IN TAY NINH, HE HAS EXTENDED THE PATROLS AROUND NU BA DEN (BLACK VIRGIN MOUNTAIN) AND REINFORCED HIS TROOPS IN AND AROUND HIEU THIEN DISTRICT. PLAN A (REFTEL) IS IN FULL SWING IN TON LE CHAM AND PLAN B, WHICH HE FEELS THE PRESIDENT WILL EVENTUALLY SUPPORT, IS STILL ON THE BACK BURNER AWAITING THE RETURN OF PRESIDENT THIEU.

3. HE CLOSED THE CONVERSTAION BY SOLICITING MY VIEWS ON WHAT STEPS PRESIDENT NIXON MIGHT TAKE IF THE COMMUNISTS CONTINUE TO FLOUT THE CEASE- FIRE ACCORD. I TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD, AS HAD HIS OWN GOVERNMENT, SIGNED THE DOCUMENT IN GOOD FAITH AND THAT PRESIDENTS NIXON AND THIEU HAD TAKEN THE POINT HE RAISES INTO CONSIDERATION DURING THE DISCUSSIONS IN SAN CLEMENTE. I REFERRED HIM TO THE SECTION IN WHICH BOTH PRESIDENTS HAD AGREED THAT ACTIONS CONSIDERED AS THREATENING THE VERY BASIS OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD CALL FOR " VIGOROUS REACTIONS." WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON05825
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730434/aaaahsed.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971202
Subject: LTG MINH OUTLINES STRATEGY TO COMBAT COMMUNIST MILITARY PLANS IN MR III
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, VS, MILI, PINT
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
SS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005